



**The Progressive Farmer Company**  
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**T**HE Bureau of the Census cotton report shows 850,032 bales, counting round as half bales, ginned from the growth of 1916 to September 1, compared with 463,883 for 1915. The number of bales ginned by states was as follows: Alabama, 22,373; Arkansas, 14,761; California, 443; Florida, 2,881; Georgia, 212,754; Louisiana, 29,780; Mississippi, 10,085; North Carolina, 24,289; Oklahoma, 7,777; South Carolina, 26,765; Tennessee, 120; Texas, 522,008.

**A**CCORDING to United States Government estimates, this year's corn crop will be 2,710,000,000 bushels, against 3,054,535,000 bushels last year; oats, 1,230,000,000 bushels, compared with 1,540,362,000 last year; and wheat, 611,000,000 bushels, compared with 1,011,505,000 in 1915. These are all heavy decreases from last year, and mean very high prices another year. Wise indeed is the farmer who lives at home,—who has such crops for sale instead of to buy.

**H**ERE it is mid-September, and the crape myrtles that began blooming in July haven't quit blooming yet. And these trees—or shrubs—require no care at all. You simply plant them and they grow as freely as oaks or pines. Is there any other way for the average home to add brightness and color to its environment with so little effort? We should like to see a hundred thousand Progressive Farmer readers each set out a sprout this fall or winter and thus help in the campaign to "Make the South a Land of Crape Myrtles."

**E**VERY farmer interested in taking advantage of the new rural credits law should write the Federal Farm Loan Board, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., for copies of the following literature: Circular No. 1, "Organization, Management and Powers of National Farm Loan Associations"; Circular No. 2, "How Farmers May Form a National Farm Loan Association;" and Public Document No. 158, being a complete copy of the Farm Loan Act. Ask also for the circular letter warning against fake promoters. These circulars and bulletins are free for the asking, and if you are intending to make use of the new rural credits law, you should get them and then study them.

**A**CCORDING to the Bureau of Estimates of the United States Department of Agriculture, the condition of the cotton crop on August 25 was 61.2 per cent of a normal, or a loss of 11.1 per cent since July 25. Conditions by states were as follows:

STATE	AUGUST 25			
	1916	1915	1914	1913
Virginia	80	85	86	68
North Carolina	65	76	82	78
South Carolina	67	71	77	77
Georgia	62	69	81	76
Florida	58	70	83	81
Alabama	45	65	77	78
Mississippi	49	69	75	59
Louisiana	64	65	66	67
Texas	63	67	79	84
Arkansas	71	72	75	72
Tennessee	80	82	76	80
Missouri	80	81	72	72
Oklahoma	56	71	80	45
California	92	93	98	96
United States..	61.2	69.2	78	68.2
Ten-year av'ge.	72.5			

This condition indicates a total yield of about 11,800,000 bales, according to the Department.

**W**E WISH every Local Union or other farmers' club in the South would hold a "Seed Corn Selection" meeting like the one held sometime ago by Gold Knob Local in Rowan County. Or if there is no local farmers' organization near you, why not have a seed selection meeting at your schoolhouse? Whenever you have it, it will be a good idea to have your county demonstration agent meet with you. Such a meeting would be both interesting and instructive, and right now is the time to get it up. Notice, too, how the Gold Knob members are cooperating in getting pure-bred Berkshires and Jerseys. In fact, farmers every-

where may learn much from the activities we reported last week from wide-awake Cabarrus and Rowan Union brethren.

**A Falsehood Corrected: All Papers Please Copy**

**W**E NOW call upon all farmers and all papers friendly to farmers to help correct one of the most damnable falsehoods yet perpetrated to cheat growers out of a fair price for this year's cotton crop.

With startling surprise and astonishment cotton farmers read in the daily papers last week that a meeting of State Farmers' Union Presidents, held in New Orleans, had recommended twelve cents as a minimum price for cotton.

And this was reported on a day when even new-crop middling cotton was bringing 15 cents all over the South! It was reported also the day after Superintendent Hester published the cotton statistics printed elsewhere on this page and in the very city where he published them!

From Virginia to Texas this statement of leaders representing the growers of the crop was hailed with hallelujahs by the bears and with amazement by farmers. The price of cotton slumped quickly afterward, and this report was no doubt partly to blame.

Now what are the facts? The facts are that this report was not only a lie but a lie promoted by high-handed forgery and fraud. The facts are that instead of naming twelve cents a pound as a reasonable minimum for this year's crop, the Farmers' Union Presidents named fifteen cents and say it should bring twenty cents. "We find that conditions warrant a price of twenty cents, and we urge farmers not to sell any cotton at all at less than fifteen cents," is the official statement signed by those Union Presidents who remained in New Orleans after the discovery of this amazing fraud.

The tragedy of it is that the Associated Press which sent the false report to all dailies seems to have sent out no correction whatever. We therefore urge all papers friendly to farmers to copy this article, and for fear many editors will not see it we urge every cotton growing reader to send it to his newspaper.

The fight for fair prices cannot be defeated by such knavery. Conditions now are such that farmers should get back the millions they lost two years ago and every farmer should help in this crusade.

**Landlord and Tenant Should Be Business Partners**

**A** YOUNG landlord, educated, thoughtful, progressive, at the same time mindful of the fact that his land must make a living for himself and family, began to take notice of what some of the larger manufacturing plants of the country are doing to better the living conditions of their employees.

If, he reasoned, the largest automobile factory in the world can pay its men \$5 per day and upward and at the same time cut the price of its cars to a figure that is the despair of competitors, must not the quality and volume of labor obtained be in proportion to its rewards? If, he asked, the rewards of labor are such that the laborer may provide for himself and family clean, wholesome living conditions, good food, pure water, and a reasonable amount of recreation, will not, in turn, the volume and quality of the work performed rise to an extent that will more than offset the increased expenditure? And if manufacturing plants find it good business to look to these things, why not the owners of farm lands?

So his plans were made, and as he becomes financially able he is carrying them out. He holds, first of all, that the very best of tenants is none too good for his place, and he constantly plans to get such men and keep them. To do this he well knows that he must offer them a proposition as attractive socially and financially as it is possible to make. First of all, he has adopted a crop

rotation system that is improving his lands, and prospective tenants know in advance that they can count on crop yields above the average. This fact alone is of course a strong inducement. He next sees to it that every family has a good house—nothing fancy, but a comfortable dwelling fit for a self-respecting man and his family. A full acre is allowed each tenant for his garden and truck crops, which he is not required to share with the landlord, and he is given free pasturage for a milk cow. A written contract is signed, and in every possible way the point that the arrangement is a partnership is stressed. The landowner advances supplies at actual cost and charges interest at 6 per cent per annum, being content to get his profits from his share of the usually excellent crops grown.

Is it any wonder that such a landlord has the pick of the tenants of his community, and that under such an arrangement both landlord and tenants are making money? Rather the wonder is that more such systems are not put in operation.

**World's Visible Supply of Cotton 1,191,197 Bales Short of Last Year's**

**T**HE report of Henry G. Hester, Superintendent of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, September 1, 1916, gives many interesting figures indicating the readiness of the world to take up a good-sized cotton crop just at the time when our very small-sized crop is coming on the market. Here are Superintendent Hester's figures showing the world's visible supply of cotton—American, foreign, and all kinds—on September 1, 1916, as compared with September 1, last year.

Total Visible Supply American Cotton	
Total today	1,792,952
Total this day last year, September 3, 1915	2,599,897
Total close this week year before, Sept. 4, 1914	1,470,093
Decrease compared with last year	806,945
Increase compared with year before	322,859
Other Kinds	
Total today	853,553
Total this day last year, September 3, 1915	1,237,805
Total close this week year before, Sept. 4, 1914	1,357,619
Decrease compared with last year	384,262
Decrease compared with year before	504,066
Total Visible Supply All Kinds	
Total today	2,646,505
Total this day last year, September 3, 1915	3,837,702
Total close this week year before, Sept. 4, 1914	2,827,712
Decrease compared with last year	1,191,197
Decrease compared with year before	181,207

With the world's total visible supply 1,191,197 bales short of what it was a year ago and our new American crop estimated at only 11,800,000 bales (whereas the world consumed during the recent cotton year 14,812,000 bales of American cotton), it certainly looks like somebody is going to have a fine opportunity to corner the market and carry prices to record-breaking figures.

While we are free to confess that any material advance beyond present prices might injure the diversification movement, produce over-production next year and carry next fall's prices disastrously low, yet if prices are going high at all, we want them to go high while the cotton is yet in the farmers' hands. If prices are carried high next March and April, it will increase acreage just as much as if prices went high now, but the profits in that case will go to the buyers, manufacturers, and speculators instead of farmers.

The thing to do therefore is for farmers to force high prices early in the season. This can be done by informing farmers as to the shortness of the present crop and getting them to see that there is no reason for rushing the crop to market.

What we have said before we say again: Pick rapidly, sell slowly, and know your grades.

**A Thought for the Week**

**T**HE man who is worthy of being a leader of men will never complain of the stupidity of his helpers, of the ingratitude of mankind, or of the inappreciation of the public. These things are all a part of the great game of life, and to meet them and not go down before them in discouragement and defeat, is the final proof of power.—Elbert Hubbard.